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FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1906.

He that falleth in love with himself will have no rivals.
—Ben Franklin.

The Personal Property Tax.

Mark Twain says that while during 363 days in the year the American citizen is true to his Christian morals, on two days of the year he lays aside his Christian morals and does things which are an offense to himself and to the country. On one of these days he goes to the polls, and without a blinch, votes for an unclean boss, and against the best man in the whole land if he is on the other ticket. On the other day he hides his personal property in another State, and then goes to the tax office and swears that he hasn't got a cent in the world. In order to escape his taxes.

That was said in jest, but there is more truth than fun in it. About this time there is much "shifting of investments" in order to get one's money safely locked up in non-taxable investments. But how is it to be prevented? It takes only a few minutes to buy and sell stocks. A citizen of Richmond has fifteen or twenty thousand dollars lying in bank. On February 1st, it would be a tax assessable asset. He calls up his broker at 10 o'clock to-day and tells him to buy a hundred shares of two hundred shares, according to price of stock in some Virginia railroad. A few minutes later the purchase is made and he has his money invested in something that is not assessable for taxation. On February 2d he calls up his broker and tells him to sell, and in a few moments he has his money back. Probably he has sold at a profit; probably he has come out even; probably he has sold at a small loss. But in any event he has escaped taxation and done it in strict compliance with law. Instead of buying railroad stocks, he may buy Virginia bonds or government bonds. If his money is already invested in taxable stocks or bonds, he may sell and reinvest in non-taxable stocks or bonds. In either case, he will have escaped taxation. It is a difficult proposition for the State to handle. Of course the man who does this sort of thing for the sole purpose of dodging the tax collector is a sly dodger, but the State cannot question his motive. If he complies with the law, the State cannot touch him or his effects.

This subject is discussed in a recent issue of the "Wall Street Journal" and it concludes that the attempt to levy taxes upon personal property is a failure, and each year's administration of the tax law makes even clearer than before the utter shamefulness of the system.

"The law itself," it adds, "invites evasion and the way it is administered serves only to accentuate the injustice and inequity. It bears most heavily upon the man of moderate means who knows no way to escape its burdens or who is too honest to evade, while many of the great estates manage to escape either through political favor or by such methods of evasion as make perjury possible to an easy conscience."

Revising the Monroe Doctrine.

Scanning the trend of recent events with observant eye, the New Orleans Picayune rises to put a query of some pertinence. How about the Monroe Doctrine? The instinct toward imperialism having evidently changed the administration attitude toward President Monroe's fundamental principle, what are we going to do? Are we getting ready to amend it to suit changed policies, or preparing to abandon it altogether?

Our present position, undoubtedly, is anomalous if not equivocal. The doctrine formulated by President Monroe, and accepted and reiterated by all succeeding administrations, was not framed as a purely one-sided demand. It was not designed as a device for taking all and giving nothing. It was, we take it, a reciprocal agreement. The United States was not to suffer "the powers of the old world to interfere with the affairs of the new." This on the one hand. On the other, we were to avoid "entangling ourselves in the broils of Europe." The neutrality, so far as our intentions could establish it, seems plain. The old world was not to seek new

territory in the new, and the new world was not to seek it in the old.

The Monroe Doctrine, then, embodied a reciprocal pledge, the terms of which were laid down and have steadily been insisted upon by the United States. For a long time those pledges have been rigorously regarded.

Of late, however, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that we have ourselves departed from them. We have not, it seems plain, kept our minds and hands away from the old world. We have acquired large and populous territories in Asiatic waters. As to "entangling ourselves in the broils of Europe," our representatives at Algiers to-day are witnesses that we have not hesitated to do precisely that.

This brings up an interesting and important point. If we have tacitly rejected our part in what would certainly appear to be a mutual agreement, are we to insist that Europe will continue to fulfill hers? Some of the old world nations, as the Picayune points out, are hungry for new territory, and competition for it is keen among them. Algeria, again, is a witness of that. Barring South America, most of the desirable portions of the globe have already been pre-empted. Is it reasonable to suppose that expanding Germany, for example, can be kept indefinitely out of South America by an instrument which we ourselves have already partly abrogated?

It occurs to us that this country can hardly expect to keep one hand firmly over an inviolable South America, while employing the other to reach vigorously into ultra-American interests. If we can't do both, which are we to do? A country is either a world-power, or it is not. If we are a world-power, our special claim for a distinctively American hemisphere falls somewhat flat. If, on the other hand, we are not a world-power, our recent history presents some perplexities to the expositor. In either case our exact attitude toward the Monroe Doctrine at the present moment appears decidedly indeterminate.

A specific statement from the administration on this point, explicitly dealing with particular facts, would serve to clear away some genuine doubts.

General Joe Wheeler.

General Joseph Wheeler, whose death is announced this morning, was, after the death of Fitz Lee, the South's most distinctly national character. He was an all-round American, and enjoyed the respect and good will of his fellow-citizens of all sections.

General Wheeler was born in Augusta, Ga., in 1836 and was graduated from the West Point Academy in 1859. He was assigned to the dragoons, but he had not been long in the service of the United States army, when the South seceded, and, like General Robert E. Lee, he resigned and entered the Confederate army. There were few soldiers more daring and more useful to Southern arms, and none more loyal to the Confederate cause than Joe Wheeler. He saw active service from beginning to end. He entered the army as colonel of the Nineteenth Alabama Infantry. In 1862 he was transferred to the cavalry command, and did splendid work, both in Tennessee and Kentucky. Early in 1863 he received his commission as major-general, and in 1865 received his promotion to the rank of lieutenant-general. At the death of Stuart he became senior cavalry general of the Confederate armies.

But no matter what his rank and no matter what his assignment, he was an intrepid soldier and a fearless fighter. After the war was ended he went into law, and divided his time between the practice of his profession and tilling the soil, until he was called by his people to serve them in Congress. He had an honorable and useful career in that body.

It was not until war broke out with Spain, however, that he became thoroughly nationalized. He was appointed major-general of United States volunteers and assigned to the command of the cavalry division of the army of Santiago. He saw much active service in Cuba, and arranged the surrender of Santiago. He was afterwards transferred to the command of the First Brigade, Second Division, Philippine Islands, and was in several campaigns during our troubles there. He afterwards made an inspection of the Island of Guam, and finally, in 1904, he was made brigadier-general, United States army.

Although in the Cuban campaign he sometimes referred to the Spaniards as "Yankees," yet he was as loyal to the stars and stripes as he had been loyal to the stars and bars, and by his soldierly bearing and brilliant service won the admiration and gratitude of the nation.

Grand old Joe Wheeler! It is hard to realize that your career is ended, that you have at last surrendered your commission and retired for eternity. But no matter under which banner you fought a good fight; you kept the faith, and now that you have finished your course, there awaits you a crown which the righteous Judge awards to all who serve their country and their God with fidelity and consecration.

The Art of Soliciting.

The Petersburg Index-Appel concurs with us that no church should send out agents to solicit subscriptions on its account without knowing them to be at least moral.

"But," asks our contemporary, "would it not be even better that churches should not countenance any scheme of public solicitation for the support of their work, but rely solely on such resources as might be found in their own congregations? Where is the merit to a congregation of a work performed not by its own liberality, and even sacrifice, but through the generosity of outsiders, some of whom exercise gradings and from considerations of business policy? How often this is true none knows better than the worthy people who have to do the soliciting."

We have more than once expressed the same view. Our contention is that the church is strongest within itself, when it relies upon its own members and the

favor of God to carry on its work. Therefore, we have always held that the church would greatly strengthen its position if it would refuse to accept exemption from taxation on its property, free water and gas and all government favors whatsoever. Apart from all this, our view is that the prime object of the church in all its endeavors should be to cultivate the Christian graces, and giving in the right spirit is one of the most noble of all such graces. We have contended that the subjective benefit of giving is more worthy to be promoted than the objective benefit. By this we mean that when the church induces any person to contribute to a good cause, its chief consideration should be to cultivate in such contributor the true spirit of giving, so that it may verify the saying that is written: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

But when any church organization sends out agents among the people with the prime object in view of raising money, the chances are it will do the cause of charity and religion very much more harm than good, for its agents are often impetuous; sometimes disagreeable in their methods of approach, and sometimes the method amounts to intimidation and blackmail.

Citizens of Richmond have been raised so often in this way that they feel a sense of resentment, not to say of indignation, against the whole scheme of soliciting, and the cause of charity and the cause of religion have suffered accordingly.

We do not say that religious and charitable institutions should never make an appeal to the outside public, but all such appeals should be made in such a way, we repeat, as to promote the divine spirit of giving, and unless that be done the end cannot justify the means.

Legalized Suicide.

A most remarkable bill was recently introduced into the Ohio Legislature by Representative Hunt, of Cincinnati, at the request of Miss Anna Hall. Miss Hall is a woman of wealth, and occupies a high social position in Cincinnati.

Under the provisions of the bill a person of sound mind, who is incurably sick and suffering unbearable agony, may ask a physician to administer an anaesthetic until the patient loses consciousness and dies. The physician must consult with three other physicians before administering the drug, and also must administer the patient that certain death is to follow. The physician, after death ensues, must notify the coroner of all the facts of the death in signed statements.

A motion was made to reject the bill, but was voted down by 73 to 22, and the bill was sent to the committee.

We cannot believe, however, that the vote represented the sentiment of the House and that the bill will become a law. It is a bill pure and simple to legalize suicide. If a person requests that his life be taken in this way, it is the same thing as though he himself administered the poison, the only difference being that under the Ohio plan he would make his taking off doubly sure. Whether or not the bill provides that physicians, when applied to, must administer the poison, we are not informed.

The first communication printed in The Times-Dispatch in advocacy of compulsory education in Virginia was from the pen of Mr. Rosewell Page. We have another communication from Mr. Page on the same subject, to which we invite the attention of the members of the General Assembly and all who are opposed to such a measure.

Mr. Page seems to think that we have abandoned the fight for compulsory education. By no means. We shall continue the fight until it is won, for it will be won by and by. But public sentiment in Virginia is not yet ripe for it, if we may judge by the voice of the press, and we do not believe in undertaking to enforce any law which is not sustained by the people. Therefore, we are asking the Legislature to adopt Governor Montague's recommendation that there be a general enactment, giving to each county and city the option of adopting a compulsory regulation in its own borders.

Senator Lodge is still championing President Roosevelt. It must be an awful job to have a President on one's hands during every session of Congress—and such a versatile President, too.

Mayor McCarthy hates a dull time. The day of toll bridges is past. Richmond and every other city situated on a stream should have the right to build as many free bridges as they please.

The credit men of Baltimore say they are our debtors and desire to discharge their obligation. There is fun ahead for the Richmond men.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

Strong Argument for Its Adoption By Mr. Rosewell Page.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—A year ago, I wrote letter to your paper, stating the need for compulsory education in this State, as I saw it, and giving the arguments for and against it. Since that time the question has been much discussed and the arguments for and against have been read all over the State.

I have been greatly pleased to note the great interest in this question and should not now undertake to discuss it further, were it not for the editorial in your paper to-day, which looks as if you had abandoned the fight for compulsory education.

In the discussion of this question, no argument has been brought forward, which was not in mind when my letter was written.

The chief objections which were an-

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tepecated were, first, that it was un-American to apply to negro children.

The answer to the first objection is that all the States of the Union except the Southern States, Oklahoma and Indian Territory have compulsory education. The answer to the second question is much more difficult.

Against the first objection, the fact that the English speaking world, and the South and the two territories, has adopted it should be a potent argument. As to the second objection, potent as it is, the following reasons appear to me to give the weight in favor of the establishment of this system.

It is better to keep the white children of the Commonwealth in ignorance, for fear of educating the negro children, or is it better to establish a system which shall give the benefit of an elementary education to the children of both races?

This argument will not appeal to those who are opposed to the public free school system. It will not appeal to those who think that the capacity to read and write and the attendance upon the public schools of the State is the cause of the moral delinquencies of the negro race. It will not appeal to those who believe that none of the money paid by the whites should be applied to teaching the negro. It will not appeal to those who look upon the negro as the enemy of the white man, and so of course will not appeal to those who do not regard the education offered by the free school system as a moral and mental training.

But it seems to me that this reasoning should appeal to every man who believes in the free school system as Mr. Jefferson believed in it, as Dr. Curry believed in it, and as Dr. Roper believed in it; that it should appeal to every man who loves and is proud of the white race and who knows the helplessness of the present free school system in many of the country districts of Virginia.

It should appeal to every taxpayer not in the least classed above the mentioned, who would wish to see his taxes effectively applied; to every one who looks to the future and considers that the right of suffrage for the next generation is dependent upon an educational qualification; to those who consider the question of literacy among the native-born free white Virginians compared with the question of literacy among the native-born, free white citizens of other States, where this system prevails.

Let us not only be proud of the achievements of our ancestors, but let us think of the good of our posterity. Let us remember that the glorious days of our youth not forget to make the days of this generation of youth useful. Let us while claiming to be the best of men, not forget the duties of the present and the consequences of such forgetfulness upon the future.

It is possibly as safe to take the judgment of some great Virginia teacher upon this point as it is to take that of some great Virginian, whose life has been spent in other vocations.

It is needless to say that we are too poor, for the Commonwealth is rich and we are too ignorant, for the Commonwealth is ignorant. It is useless to argue that we are doing well with nearly forty out of every hundred white children of the State, and with nearly forty out of every hundred of those on the roll not in attendance upon the school. It is idle to say that the State is doing well with nearly seventy-three days in a year can compete with a State whose pupils attend school one hundred and forty-nine days in a year. Yet this is the reality. The average number of days attended by each pupil enrolled for the session of 1902-1903 in the Commonwealths of Virginia and Massachusetts was 122.8.

The per cent. of illiterate among adult males in the State, as shown by the last census was in Virginia a little over 12 per cent., and in Massachusetts a little less than one per cent.

These startling figures do not appeal to those who are content to think that an ignorant Virginian is better than a learned one of the State, but it must appeal to those who believe that an ignorant Virginian is not so useful a man to his family or to the community as one who has an elementary education.

The difficulties in the way are great; but the danger in not removing that difficulty is greater.

Our fathers established the free school system when Virginia was at the low tide of her prosperity. Let us let their descendants not follow the backward way, but let Virginia move forward and all her people upon the side of those whose experience has taught them the necessity of compulsory education. Respectfully,

ROSEWELL PAGE.

Oakland, Hanover County, Va., Jan. 24, 1906.

The Children Must Be Educated.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—The public mind seems to be somewhat at fault in regard to "compulsory education." It is a term which is used by every child must attend the public school, while it only means that they attend some school.

The contention that it would fill the negro schools to overflowing is all bosh, for they all attend now; visit almost any school and you will find great big grown boys and girls as well as the little ones, and as an excuse not to work, while the white people are taxed to pay for their comfort, and the negroes are not taxed to pay for theirs.

Let him go a little further and impose a fine of not less than \$5.00 on any one using what is called a drag lock on a road wagon. With the chain fastened to the wheel it becomes rigid and cuts a trench from two to six inches deep, according to the load and the condition of the ground, from the top to the bottom of the hill; the first time it rains the water will follow this trench, which soon becomes a gully, and thus the road is ruined, though it may have been well rounded up with good drains on the sides.

The public mind is justly agitated upon this subject of temperance. If the General Assembly would pass a law prohibiting the sale of liquor within two miles of any school, whether a public or private, or of any church building, except in cities and towns which have sufficient police protection, the problem would be solved. It is a simple matter, as it would break up the F&K&B distilleries and the Mann law would take care of the rest.

AN OBSERVER.

Mitchell, Culpeper County, Va.

True Womanhood.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—This is a heading of your esteemed paper on January 23, 1906. Sure enough the woman has suffered terribly all her life since she got married to a man who would not let her do anything but what he wanted her to do. In two centuries the red man has dwindled steadily, and his ultimate disappearance, from the face of the earth, appears to only a question of time.

From many statements I see I doubt the accuracy of that statement, although I know that such a thing is true, but Alexander Chamberlain, of Clark University, Mass., says this belief is based upon "imperfect evidence." The Encyclopedia Americana says that there are only 60,000 Indians in the United States to-day and probably more than ever before.

I call your attention to this merely for the sake of knowing.

J. WATSON.

Max Meadows, Va.

Is the Negro Disappearing?

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—In your issue of January 8th, appeared an editorial entitled "Will the Negro Disappear?" In it you make the statement that "In two centuries the red man has dwindled steadily, and his ultimate disappearance, from the face of the earth, appears to only a question of time."

From many statements I see I doubt the accuracy of that statement, although I know that such a thing is true, but Alexander Chamberlain, of Clark University, Mass., says this belief is based upon "imperfect evidence." The Encyclopedia Americana says that there are only 60,000 Indians in the United States to-day and probably more than ever before. I call your attention to this merely for the sake of knowing.

J. WATSON.

Rhymes for To-Day.

The Butler.

Of all the trades
For men or maids,
The most refined is butler—
To serve the tea
For company.
And eke to clean the cutlery.

(The butler-gent
In chief, I meant,
He has more personality.
The butlerless
Has so much less
Real individuality.)

He-butlers need
A suit of tweed,
Or other fitting livery;
Made rather light;
Yet snug and tight,
In case the day be shivery.

He needs a tray,
In which to lay
The pasteboards of each visitor;
His tray! Ah, it
Is requisite
He finds few things regular.

His manner should
Be sure, yet good;
Polite, yet full of gravity;
And, too, it must
Exhibit just
The right degree of suavity.

How nice to meet
The town's elite,
To know our best society;
And yet his stars
And languid air
Reveal a bored satety.

But o'er the sink
'Tis his to think
(The while he cleans the cutlery):
"Of all the trades
For men or maids,
The most refined is butler."

—H. S. H.

Merely Joking.

Cashierly Follies.—"I suppose you prefer a cash which you can't drink or gamble." "Yes, and if possible, we also like to get one who won't steal."—Houston Chronicle.

Thinking of Biz.—"Father, I want you to buy me a foreign diary." "Daddy, on the hoof?" inquired the absent-minded Chicago packer.—Houston Chronicle.

A Test.—First Millionaire: "How is your machine working?" Second Millionaire: "Very poorly; I have not paid a fine for over three days."—Life.

More Expensive.—Mrs. Oldblood: "Were your people forty-niners?" Mrs. Newblood: "No, indeed; we always paid at least ninety-eight cents for our bargains."—New York Sun.

Precocious Tommy.—"Now, Tommy, if you had six pennies, and Jimmie Smith should take four of them, what would be the result?" "An ambulance for Jimmy."—Indianapolis News.

Fixed for Life.—"I can't understand how that young lawyer lives. I have never heard of him having a client." "You haven't? Why, he's one of the people who helped to break old Biggerson's will. He doesn't need clients."—Chicago Record-Herald.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

January 26th.

1793—The Senate of Venice acknowledged the French Republic.

1795—The French National Convention declared Marseilles in a state of siege.

1795—The Assembly of the State of Holland met and chose Peter Paulus their President for the term of fifteen days.

1804—Congress extended the customs laws over the new Louisiana Territory by making Natchez a port of entry.

1805—England ordered that vessels carrying corn should be allowed in the ports of Spain, provided they carried no guns.

1829—A resolution was introduced in the City Council of New York, abolishing all lotteries in the city limits, because they had become so numerous as to be demoralizing.

1837—Robert Y. Hayne, of South Carolina, made his famous speech in Congress in defense of State rights.

1839—Terrible gale and heavy rain in the United States. The river at Philadelphia rose seventeen feet above low water mark, and at Kennebec thirteen feet above high water mark. New York and Albany were considerably overflowed.

1855—The chapel and west wing of Rutledge College, South Carolina, destroyed by fire.

1865—Navigation in the Potomac River blocked by ice twelve inches thick below Washington.

1884—During a debate in the House at Washington on the bill for the relief of General Fitz-John Porter, it was declared that 3,000 Union army officers were against him, and only Grant, Rosecrans and Slocum in his favor.

1894—Bismarck arrived in Berlin for a public reconciliation with Emperor William II., with whom he had quarreled four years previously.

1904—The Hon. John W. Daniel, of Virginia, elected to the United States Senate for fourth term.

Republicans support Colonel Slemm, Prince Henri de TROYE, of Belgium, visits Richmond, Va.

Statue to the Rev. John Jasper (colored) unveiled in Richmond, Va.

Skin Preserver.

Blanks' Velveteen Lotion

It is one of the nicest toilet preparations that you can get anywhere. It is a great favorite among the ladies. It acts like a charm upon the skin—very cooling, softening and healing in effect.

It softens and smooths rough skin, heals chapped surfaces, moistens dry, harsh spots, aids in restoring the color to faded complexions, and is very beneficial in clearing the skin of pimples, blackheads and muddiness.

We ask you to give this preparation a trial, confidently believing you will be as other ladies are who have used it—a great admirer and constant user of it. You will not be disappointed in it. You will find it a most pleasant addition to your list of toilet requisites.

Price 15 and 25 Cents a Bottle

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In the midst of prosperity prepare for want.

Fortified with a bank account, you can successfully withstand any siege of misfortune.

We help raise the breastworks by paying 3 per cent. compound interest. If out of town, you can bank by mail.

Planters National Bank,
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Capital, - - - - - \$300,000.00
Surplus and Profits, - - - - - \$900,000.00

WAY OPENED FOR BALLOT RECOUNT

Senator Raines Offers Bill Empowering Courts to Recanvass New York Returns.

WILL PROLONG HEARST FIGHT

Senator Grady Opposes Measure in Vigorous Attack on Defeated Mayoralty Candidate.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

ALBANY, N. Y., January 25.—(Republican members of the Legislature have come to the aid of William R. Hearst in his fight for a recount of the ballots cast in the last mayoralty contest, Senator Raines, leader of the majority in the Senate, to-day introducing a bill compelling the courts to order a recanvass on the petition of any candidate. Senator Raines explained that this was the intent of the framers of the original election law and declared that if such provisions were not made conditions might lead to an uprising of the people, which would be disastrous.

In the Raines bill the wishes of the Municipal Ownership League are fully met. The measure declares that any judge of the Supreme Court or any county judge shall order a recount and a recanvass of votes cast in any election district at any election, heretofore or hereafter held, on the written petition of any candidate.

It must appear from the affidavit of the petitioner that there has been a mistake in the count of the votes cast in such district; that fraud has been perpetrated in the count of the votes in such district; that the votes upon a ballot or ballots objected to as having been marked for identification or as